



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO CONVICTED IN CONSPIRACY INVOLVING CORRUPTION OF EMPLOYEES AT ARIZONA MVD

PHOENIX - Moustapha Lotfi Eljammal, 39, of Tempe, Ariz., was found guilty here yesterday by a federal jury of one count of Conspiracy in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371, six counts of Altering or Removing Vehicle Identification Numbers in violation of 18 U.S.C. §511, three counts of Transporting Stolen Vehicles in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2312 and five counts of Possessing Stolen Vehicles in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2313. In addition, co-defendant Vasile Valy Rosca, 44, of Scottsdale, Ariz., was found guilty here yesterday by a federal jury of one count of Conspiracy in violation of 18 U.S.C. §371. The case was tried before U.S. District Court Judge David G. Campbell from February 22 through March 30, 2005.

The evidence at trial showed that defendants Eljammal, Rosca, and others engaged in activity from 1999-2002 that involved the theft and VIN switching of motor vehicles; the creation of fraudulent registrations, purportedly from Canadian provinces; the processing of these fraudulent registrations through the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) by bribing employees of MVD to obtain clean titles, registrations, plates, and tags; the distribution of these titles, registrations, and in many instances stolen vehicles, to co-conspirators; fraudulent loan applications and receipt of loans for stolen or fictional vehicles; the fraudulent insuring of stolen and fictional vehicles; and the fabrication of theft reports to collect on the insurance policies. In total, the conspiracy involved 31 vehicles that were fraudulently titled through Arizona MVD.

A conviction for Conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Altering or Removing Vehicle Identification Numbers carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Transportation of Stolen Vehicles carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Sale or Receipt of Stolen Vehicles carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge David G. Campbell on June 27, 2005.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Chandler Police Department, the Tempe Police Department, the Internal Revenue Service and other agencies affiliated with the Arizona Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force.

The prosecution was handled by Peter Sexton and Howard D. Sukenic, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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